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Annual Report

OF

Medical Officer of Health

1937.

FRINTON-ON-SEA :

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FRINTON AND WALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report for 1937.

The Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Frinton and Walton.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you my third Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district during the year 1937. As in previous reports, the contents consist mainly of statistical tables, the sanitary condition of the area and the various provisions of the health services. Full details of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector are also included.

Taken as a whole the vital statistics of the district are very satisfactory. The Birth Rate is 11.5 per 1,000 of the population and the crude Death Rate is 14.1 which, making allowance for age and sex distribution, becomes 11.7 per 1,000.

The estimated mid-year population, supplied by the Registrar-General, is 7,287 and this is used in the calculation of the various statistics.

Infectious disease incidence was again very light and there did not appear to be any circumstances specially prejudicial to health.

As regards Housing, one has to record that the demolition of unfit property does not keep pace with the numbers represented during the year.

PORT SANITATION.—As in previous years, the shipping is limited practically to pleasure steamers during the summer. Three of these brought 10,300 passengers and embarked 12,111. No action was required under the Port Sanitary Regulations.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres)	6293
Resident Population (Registrar-General's Estimate) 1937	7287
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1937	2764
Rateable Value	£110,189
Sum represented by a penny rate	£409

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate ...	77	45	32
Illegitimate ...	7	2	5

Birth-rate per 1,000 —11·5

Stillbirths	1

Rate per 1,000 total births —12.

Deaths ...	103	45	58

Death-rate per 1,000 —14·1

Puerperal Deaths —Nil. Rate per 1,000 Births — Nil

(1) Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
(2) Other Puerperal causes	Nil

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—	
All Infants, per 1,000 live births ...	59·5
Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	65
Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping-cough (all ages) ...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1
Deaths from Cancer	15
Cancer Death-rate	2·0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death-rate	·41
Other Tubercular Disease Death-rate ...	·13

TABLE OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

(Registrar-General).

	Male.	Female.
Influenza	3	3
Pulmonary Tuberbulosis ..	1	2
Other Tuberculosis ...	—	1
Syphilis	—	1
Cancer	9	6
Appendicitis	1	—
Septic Ulcer, etc.	3	—
Bronchitis	2	4
Pneumonia	—	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1
Heart Disease	6	20
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	3	4
Nephritis	3	2
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth : Diarrhoea	2	1
Senility	1	4
Suicide	3	—
Other Violence ...	2	—
Other Defined Diseases ...	3	4
Ill Defined Diseases	2	—
	45	58

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES during 1937.
(Local Registrar).

Under 1 year	5
1 and under 2	—
2 and under 5	—
5 and under 15	—
15 and under 25	3
25 and under 35	6
35 and under 45	3
45 and under 55	12
55 and under 65	12
65 and under 75	28
75 and upwards	33
Total	102

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS, 1937.

	Birth Rate per 1000 population		Death Rate per 1000 population.	Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Births.
	Live Births.	Still Births		
England and Wales ...	14·9	·60	12·4	58
125 Great Towns ...	14·9	·67	12·5	62
148 Small Towns ..	15·3	·64	11·9	55
London	13·3	·54	12·3	60
Frinton and Walton ...	11·5	·13	11·7	59·5

COMPARATIVE INFECTIOUS DISEASE DEATH-RATE.

	Enteric Fever	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhœa under 2 year
England and Wales ...		—	·02	·01	·04	·07	·45	54	5·8
125 Great Towns ...	·01	—	·03	·01	·04	·08	·39	·45	7·9
148 Small Towns ...	—	—	·02	·01	·03	·05	·42	·42	3·2
London	—	—	0·1	·01	·06	·05	·38	·51	12·0
Frinton and Walton ...	—	—	—	-	—	—	·82	·68	·13

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

		1 day.	1 wk.	1 mth.	6 mths.	9 mths
Premature Birth	...	—	1	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	—	—	1	—	—
Other Diseases	...	1	—	—	—	1
		1	1	1	—	1

STILLBIRTHS.

Only 1 Stillbirth was registered during the year.

DEATHS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN DISTRICTS.

	Frinton.	Walton.	Kirby.	Gt. Holland.
Total Deaths	24	51	21	6
Infant Deaths	—	3	2	—
Scarlet Fever notified	—	2	1	—
Diphtheria notified	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever notified	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	1	2	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	1
Chicken-pox	1	3	10	—
Tuberculosis	3	2	—	1
Puerperal Fever	—	2	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1937

		Total notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	3	—	—
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	3	—	4
Erysipelas	...	1	—	—
Chicken-pox	...	14	—	—
Puerperal Fever		2	2	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								1
1								
5			1					
15			1			1		
25	2		1		1			
35						1		
45								
55		1						
65 upwards								
Totals	2	1	3		1	2		1

TUBERCULOSIS.

The total number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the end of 1937 was :—

A. Pulmonary Tuberculosis—

(1) Male 5

(2) Female 4

B. Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—

(1) Male 4

(2) Female 4

Total 17

Of the 17 cases on the register, 3 were resident in Frinton, 7 in Walton, 6 in Kirby and 1 in Great Holland.

Of the 6 new cases notified during the year, 2 had Sanatorium treatment, 1 left the district and 1 died within three months. No action was required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of Infectious Disease was again very low and showed a further decrease on the low figure of 1936. Only 3 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and all were nursed at home. There were no cases of Diphtheria or Enteric Fever.

DEATHS.

The deaths show a slight increase over the figure for 1936, as is to be expected in a growing district. This year the chief increase takes place in Walton and Kirby, while Frinton shows a decrease on last year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

I. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

*W. A. Milne, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

†J. Gray, A.R.S.I., Meat Certificate.

* The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of the Clacton Urban District and Assistant County Medical Officer of Essex.

† Full-time officer.

II. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The arrangement with the Counties Public Health Laboratories continued throughout 1937, and below is a list of the work done for the district during the year :—

	Number examined.
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	13
Sputa for Tuberculosis	19
General	6
Milk	24
Water	6
	68

III. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Adequate provision for the supply of Ambulances when required exists in the district.

IV. NURSING IN THE HOME.

This is provided by the Nursing Association which has two nurses, one of whom works in Walton and the other in Frinton, Kirby, and Great Holland.

V. CLINICS AND HOSPITALS.

As in previous years, the Clinics for Maternity and Child Welfare and for School children are provided by the County Council at Walton and Kirby.

Hospital provision is obtained at Clacton and Colchester.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the months of August and September, complaints were received in regard to the colour of water drawn from the mains in Walton-on-Naze, and also of the inadequate pressure of the supply in many parts of the town.

Representations to The Tendring Hundred Waterworks Company were made by the Council immediately, and from the reply received it appears that the conditions arose on account of the bursting of one of the principal mains leading into Walton-on-Naze, in addition to bursts in other mains in the town. As a result of these bursts pressure was reduced and, due to the disturbed mains, the water became discoloured.

On receipt of the complaints, the Sanitary Inspector obtained samples of the main water from domestic taps in three houses in the affected areas, and they were sent for chemical and bacteriological examination. The reports thereon showed the water to be of a high standard of purity, and quite suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

The burst mains were duly repaired and shortly afterwards both the colour of the water and the pressure of the supply became normal.

At the end of September further representations to the Water Company were made by the Council in regard to the general condition of water mains in the Urban District, especially those in Walton-on-Naze. The Company have since informed the Council that an entirely new main—some 4½ miles in length—is to be laid forthwith, from Thorpe Lodge, Landermere, to Walton Church.

The main source of water supply to the village of Lower Kirby is an underground stream, the water being piped to six different points in the main street of the village. Three samples of the water were examined during the year, the reports being quite satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

(a) A short length of 12 in. sewer was laid at Kirby Cross to relieve surcharging in a main junction manhole and this work appears to have considerably improved the system.

The open ditch in Quay Lane, Lower Kirby, has been piped for a length of 160 yards. This work has successfully prevented the recurrence of flooding in low lying gardens during heavy rains.

(b) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, ETC.

Approximate number of Privies in the Urban District	25
" " " Pail Closets " "	397
" " " Cesspools " "	108
" " " Wells " "	27
" " " Houses with Cesspools and Wells	5

REFUSE COLLECTION .

The present arrangements are very satisfactory. The Council's fleet of collection vehicles consists of S. & D., Thornycroft and Vulcan dustless vehicles which are in commission all the year round. The refuse collected during the year amounted to 20,116 cub. yds.

STREET SCAVENGING.

This work is carried out very efficiently. All refuse in the urban parts of the district is swept early. The vehicles used are the modern orderly trucks having wheels with pneumatic tyres.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The house refuse is taken by the above vehicles to a tip situated on low lying marsh land at Lower Kirby, about ¾-mile from the village. The tip is in good condition.

SCHOOLS.

The four elementary schools in the district are visited from time to time. All have the main water supply laid on, and three of the premises are drained to the sewer. The fourth school that situated at Great Holland—has pail closet accommodation, and the waste water is drained to a cesspool.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no swimming baths in the district.

DANGEROUS BUILDINGS.

As a result of informal communication to owners of two buildings which were in the opinion of the Surveyor dangerous, these buildings were made safe.

MORTUARY.

During the year the new mortuary and post mortem room in the Walton cemetery was completed, and fully equipped.

CONVENIENCES.

Work has been commenced on the new underground public conveniences for both sexes in Naze Park Road, Walton, and also on the erection of a new convenience for both sexes on the site of the existing Pier Convenience, Walton.

NEW LEGISLATION.

The Housing Act, 1936, came into operation on the 1st January, 1937; and the Public Health Act, 1936, on the 1st October, 1937.

BYE-LAWS.

During the year Bye-laws as to the fouling of Footpaths by Dogs, made by the Essex County Council, came into force on the 1st September. Enforcement of the Bye-laws in this area is in the hands of the Urban District Council.

HOUSING.

1 INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 183

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 311

2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 46

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 51

3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 11

4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 79

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

1. Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 47

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... ... —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :——

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which legal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 4

(b) By local authority in default of owners —

C.—Proceedings under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ...

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 1

D.- Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit ... ... —

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ... —

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... —

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... —

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... —

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 3

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 18

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... —

HOUSING—GENERAL.

During the year under review fourteen cottages, all of which appeared to be unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered so fit, were represented to the Council under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. Consideration of the condition of the properties was adjourned until May, 1938.

Six unfit cottages represented to the Council in 1936 became vacant during the year. Five of the properties are now closed on undertakings of the owners, and the remaining cottage has been demolished.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS. No action was taken under the provisions of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts up to the 31st December, 1937. Applications, however, were made to the Essex County Council for grants in respect of the proposed reconditioning of three rural cottages.

NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

A. With State assistance ... ... NIL.
B. Without State Assistance 64

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Number of houses and premises inspected	346
,, ,, visits re nuisances	311
,, ,, ,, to works in progress	252
,, ,, ,, ,, slaughterhouses	381
,, ,, ,, ,, dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	114
,, ,, ,, ,, bakehouses	37
,, ,, ,, ,, workshops and workplaces ...	9
,, ,, ,, ,, schools	3
,, ,, ,, ,, ice-cream premises	13
,, ,, ,, ,, fried fish shops	5
,, ,, ,, ,, other food shops	53
,, ,, ,, ,, camping grounds	37
,, ,, ,, ,, piggeries and stables	28
,, ,, ,, re cases of infectious disease ...	47
,, ,, ,, under Shops Acts	19
,, ,, ,, ,, Petroleum Acts	23
,, ,, ,, re Overcrowding	14
,, ,, houses measured in detail for overcrowding purposes	433

COMPLAINTS.

During the year 210 complaints were received with respect to the following matters, viz :—

Defective condition of house drains	7
Nuisances caused by blocked drains	8
Defective W.C. accommodation ...	5
,, W.C. pans	3
,, W.C. flushing cisterns ...	7
,, pail closets	2
Overflowing cesspools	6
Inadequate drainage of yard ...	1
Defective kitchen sinks	3
,, stoves or ranges	4
Damp house walls	6
Damp house floors	6
Defective roofs	6
,, floors	5
,, eaves gutters and spouting	11
,, water fittings	3
Accumulations of rubbish	11
Verminous rooms	3
Insanitary ditches	3
Nuisances caused by animals ...	10
,, ,, insects ...	20
Alleged overcrowding of houses ...	4
Rats	48
Defective dust bins	11
Re water supply	4
Miscellaneous	13

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal notices served, including letters and verbal instructions	209
Formal notices served under Public Health Act	5

DETAILS OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED DURING THE YEAR.

Defective drains repaired	6
Additional drains laid	4
Drainage systems provided	2
Water closets provided	7
New W.C. pans provided	10
W.C. cisterns provided	4
W.C. cisterns repaired	6
W.C. accommodation repaired ...	3
Urinals provided	1
Inspection chambers provided ...	5
Inspection chambers repaired ...	6
Wash-hand basins provided ...	5
Fresh air inlets provided	4
Fresh air inlets repaired	5
Vent. pipes repaired	3
Pail closets provided	2
Cesspools repaired	6
Grease traps provided	2
Sink waste pipes repaired	7
Sink waste pipes, trapped, provided	9
New sinks provided	5
Gullies provided	2
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	18
Downspouts renewed or repaired ...	13
Ranges and stoves repaired	4
New ranges provided	6
Roofs repaired	17
Chimneys repaired	1
Floors repaired or renewed	9
Concrete floors laid	5
Dampness treated	9
Plasterwork repaired	7
Ceilings repaired or supported ...	5
Doors repaired	5
Doors renewed	2
Windows repaired	3
Windows, made to open provided ...	6
Staircases repaired	2
Handrails provided	1
Yards concreted	4
Ashbins provided	47
Houses connected with water main	7
Accumulations removed	17
Houses connected with sewer ...	5
Cases overcrowding abated	3
Rooms cleansed	11
Verminous rooms disinfested ...	10
Wells closed	3
Surface water drains laid	2
Pond filled in	1

MOSQUITO DESTRUCTION.

Man-days worked	390
Average hours per day	7½

MILK SUPPLY.

There were fifteen producers or wholesale traders and twelve retailers of milk on the register at the end of the year.

(a) DAIRIES, COWSHEDS and MILKSHOPS. The following improvements were carried out after informal notice :—

New milking shed built, complete with adjoining dairy and wash-house ...	1
Extensions and improvements to existing milking sheds	14
New concrete floors and channels provided	2
Concrete floors repaired	2
Concrete mangers provided in place of wooden ditto	2
Improvements to lighting and ventilation	4
Drainage system provided	1
Main water supply laid on	1
Other improvements	8

(b) PRODUCTION OF GRADED MILK.—During the year, one dairyman in the district was licenced to produce Accredited Milk at his premises.

Licenced producers of graded milk now number six, viz : one producer of Tuberculin Tested Milk, and five producers of Accredited Milk. It is anticipated that at least one other dairyman will be shortly licenced to produce Accredited Milk.

There is a licenced pasteurising establishment in Walton-on-the-Naze. The pasteurising plant is modern and of a good type, but it was not put into commission during the year on account of the very little demand for pasteurised milk. Only a small quantity of this grade of milk is sold, the milk having been pasteurised outside of the district and sold locally under licence.

The following licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 :—

Dealers licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	6
,, ,, ,, Accredited Milk ...	4
,, ,, Pasteurised Milk ...	3
Licences in respect of Bottling Establishments ...	2
Licence in respect of Pasteurising Establishment	1

(c) MILK SAMPLES.—During the year, samples of milk were sent for various examinations to the Counties Public Health Laboratories. Numbers of samples examined are set out below, viz :—

Routine Samples (Frinton & Walton U.D.C.) ...	27
Samples under Milk in Schools Scheme (Essex C.C.)	11
Samples of Graded Milk (Essex C.C.)	22

BAKEHOUSES.

The 11 bakehouses in the Urban District received 37 visits during the year, and no serious faults were met with. The premises generally are in good condition and are well managed.

During the year it was necessary to warn occupiers of two bakehouses that the same care in regard to cleanliness of the premises should be observed during the "rush" season as well as in the winter months.

After informal notice, an unpaved and muddy approach to one bakehouse was paved in cement concrete.

The only matter calling for some comment is the delivery by one or two bakers' roundsmen of bread in uncovered baskets. Precaution against contamination of the bread by dust and dirt of the streets should be observed by covering baskets with clean cloths. This precaution is generally observed in the district, and in regard to the cases above mentioned the end of the year brought some improvement.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries)	3		
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries)	2		
WORKPLACES (other than outworkers' premises)	4		
Total ...	9		

2. DEFECTS.

Nil.

3. HOMEWORK OUTWORKERS' LISTS.

One outworker's list received.

4. No action required under section 133 or with regard to infectious disease.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Dr. John F. Beale, 91, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4., undertakes this work for the Administrative County of Essex.

SHELL-FISH.

Oysters, escallops and winkles are sold locally, the shell-fish being obtained from Brightlingsea, West Mersea and through the London (Billingsgate) Fish Market. There are no layings or beds in the Urban District.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the year, 381 visits were paid to the 3 registered slaughter-houses, and 71 visits to other food shops in the district.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED—YEAR 1937.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	132	0	49	416	468
Number inspected ...	128	0	43	401	468
All Diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part was condemned	16	0	0	2	4
Percentage of number of animals inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	12.5%	—	—	0.5%	0.85%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part was condemned	0	0	0	0	24
Percentage of number of animals inspected affected with tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	5.1%

The following meat found to be unfit for food was surrendered by the owners, and destroyed :—

Tubercular.

24 pigs' heads.
19 pigs' mesenteries.

Other Diseases.

12 Ox livers.
2 sets Ox lungs.
30 lbs. beef.
84 lbs. meat trimmings.
3 pigs' plucks.
3 pigs' livers.
2 sheeps' plucks.
11 lbs. sheeps' livers (frozen).

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Of the 3 slaughter-houses, 2 are modern airy buildings, well suited for the purpose. The remaining slaughter-house needs to be modernised and enlarged, including the lairage accommodation, and this work was commenced at the latter end of the year.

All of the slaughter-houses are well managed, and there has been little cause for complaint.

OTHER FOOD SHOPS.

During the year, 53 visits were paid to food shops. The only action found to be required was to secure the cleansing of storerooms attached to 4 shop premises.

ICE-CREAM PREMISES.

Thirteen visits were paid to manufacturers of ice-cream in the district.

During the year, 8 persons and their premises were registered with the Council as dealers.

There are now 20 dealers and 11 manufacturers of the commodity on the register.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are 2 fried fish shops on the register and these received 5 visits.

One shop comprises a fairly old wooden structure, with fish frying range installed. The building is not very suitable, and it has been necessary on 3 occasions during the year to secure the cleansing of the internal walls and floors and also of the frying range.

WATER ANALYSIS AND EXAMINATION.

During the year, 15 samples of water were examined at The Counties Public Health Laboratories, viz :—

From the main supply, 3; from public wells, 4; from private wells, 8.

As a result of reports upon these samples, 3 private wells were closed and improvements (including cleansing and covering) were carried out to the remaining well.

The main water supply was subsequently laid on to premises where it was necessary to close the wells.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(i)	Number of Council houses found to be infested	Nil.
(ii)	Number of other houses ,, ,,	4

METHODS EMPLOYED IN DISINFESTATION.

(i) Loosening skirtings, picture rails and other woodwork; lifting floor boards as required; stripping wall paper; followed by—

(a) spraying of walls, floors and furniture with an insecticide, and/or

(b) fumigation with fumigating blocks.

(ii) Infested bedding is steam disinfected, or with the consent of the owner, destroyed.

The work is carried out by the Local Authority.

DISINFECTION.

During the year disinfection was carried out as follows :—

ROOMS DISINFECTED.

After Scarlet Fever	...	3
,, Tuberculosis	...	4
,, Measles ...	...	1
,, Chickenpox	...	2

BEDDING DISINFECTED.

One lot of bedding and wearing apparel was fumigated in the steam disinfector at Clacton Isolation Hospital.

BEDDING DESTROYED.

Three lots of bedding were destroyed by burning.

HOUSING—OVERCROWDING.

Three cases of overcrowding outstanding on the 31st December, 1936, were abated during the year. There is now no known overcrowding in the district.

During the year 433 houses were measured in detail in order to ascertain the "permitted number" of persons in relation to each house. A small number remain to be measured and should be completed during 1938.

TEMPORARY OVERCROWDING LICENCES.

During the season, 48 licences were granted occupants of houses permitting temporary overcrowding of persons for limited periods.

SHOPS ACTS.

During the year, 15 shop premises received 19 visits under the Shops Act, 1934. The following work was carried out after informal notice :—

Roofs repaired	3
Rain water gutters and spouting repaired ...	5
Wash basins provided	2
Wash basin waste pipe repaired	1
W.C. floor concreted	1
W.C. flushing cistern repaired	1

CAMPING GROUNDS.

The three camping grounds in the district were visited frequently during the season, and any matter calling for attention was promptly attended to by the owners.

Several improvements have been carried out during the year under review, including the provision on the Bath House Meadow Camping Site, of new conveniences for both sexes, provision of additional litter baskets, and sanitary dust bins, and of main water supply stand pipes.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

During the year, 19 licences were granted to keep a total of 23,530 gallons of petroleum spirit.

SUNSHINE AND RAINFALL RECORDS.

Month.	Sunshine.	Rainfall.
January	55.6	3.000
February	68.0	3.141
March	132.0	2.228
April	92.8	2.000
May	185.4	2.256
June	222.2	1.704
July	149.8	2.500
August	196.2	1.230
September	189.2	3.850
October	102.8	1.600
November	79.4	1.500
December	23.5	4.320
	1496.9	29.329

Average daily sunshine	4.1 hours.
Days on which sun shone	291
Rainless days	200
Average maximum temperature	55.5 degrees.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. MILNE.